



ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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Produced by the Kentucky Department of Education

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'ParentInfo' signup

[Click here](#) to sign up to receive this newsletter twice a month.

For more information, contact [Susan Riddell](#) at (502) 564-2000.



Winter weather has had a big impact on Kentucky schools

It's no secret this has been a harsh winter for Kentucky schools. As parents know, the decision to close schools for inclement weather can be a tough one to make.

The same holds true for how to make up these school days. If parents have questions or concerns about the solutions school districts choose to make up the days, they should contact local district personnel. To learn more about school closings and recommendations, click [here](#).

Additionally, all Kentucky high school juniors were scheduled to take the ACT Tuesday, March 4. An alternate date of March 18 has been set as a makeup test date for juniors who were out of school that day. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is working with ACT to schedule an additional makeup day in the future.

Meanwhile, the Office of Next-Generation Schools and Districts is interested in what districts have done to reach out and creatively engage students in learning during the recent unexpected span of snow days. As parents, encourage your child's teacher to share his or her ideas or steps their school or district has taken to mitigate the impact this winter has had on learning.

KDE would like to gather these ideas to share with others across the state as a strategy to support schools as they are faced with the task of getting students back into the groove of learning and ready for the spring assessment. School personnel should contact [Patrice Nyatuame](#) to share these great ideas.

Upcoming opportunities for Kentucky students

Bluegrass Indo-American Civic Society 2014 scholarships

The 2014 Bluegrass Indo-American Civic Society will be awarding at least 15 one-time scholarships of \$1,000 apiece. This scholarship is for graduating seniors.

This year at least three scholarships are totally merit based, and the remaining ones are merit with need based.

Students complete the online application by visiting www.biacs.org. Instructions are on the website. Applications are due by April 1. For more information, e-mail scholarship@biacs.org for assistance.

School promotion contest

A rising junior at one of Kentucky's public or private high schools will win a \$500 scholarship and a photo shoot at his or her school through the "Promote Your School" scholarship contest, sponsored by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

To enter, the student must submit an essay about one of these subjects:

- his or her generational aspirations
- preparing for the future
- effect on community of his or her educational plans
- what a middle school student should do in high school to prepare for college

The deadline for submissions is May 31. For more information, visit

www.kheaa.com/website/contest/intro. Photos from the winning school will be used in KHEAA publications and on KHEAA websites.

KHEAA is the state agency that promotes college awareness, provides free college planning materials and administers state student aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES).

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com, or call toll-free (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7372.



KET Young Writers Contest

The KET Young Writers Contest is an opportunity for young children to express their creativity by writing for an authentic audience beyond the walls of their school or home. Students in kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to send in their illustrated stories and, for the first time, students in grades 3-5 may instead choose to enter a 400-600 word short story without illustrations.

The contest runs until April 15, and winners will be notified in May. Visit the Young Writers Contest [website](http://www.ket.org/writerscontest), which has links to the rules, scoring rubrics and entry forms.

Digital Citizenship Video Challenge

KET's School Video Project Challenge - Digital Citizenship, integrates multimedia technology and media studies with the [Kentucky Core Academic Standards for Technology](http://www.ket.org/education/svp/digcitizen.php) in a fun activity for project-based learning. And, it's a chance to win a green screen and light kit for making great student projects. Are these separate things?

Project Focus is a school and community initiative to help Kentucky students be good and safe digital citizens, respectful of others' rights and feelings while protecting themselves as they navigate the Internet, make and share multimedia projects, participate in social networking and develop media awareness.

Student videos can be brief projects like public service announcements on safe, respectful digital behavior (not texting while driving); news-story explorations on how to develop media awareness and critical viewing skills; recorded discussions and solutions to common problems such as cyber-bullying and more.

Deadline for submissions is May 2. For more information or to enter the competition, go to www.ket.org/education/svp/digcitizen.php.



Kentucky Literacy Celebration week

The fourth annual Kentucky Literacy Celebration week will be March 17-21 and will be marked by a number of activities and announcements. Click [here](#) for more information.

The week chosen for this event coincides with other literacy related activities that may help inspire participation. February was African-American Read-In month, sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English, and March includes Read across America activities, sponsored by the National Education Association.

[This document](#) contains several ideas about how every Kentuckian can be involved in the literacy celebration. Monitor this Web [link](#) for additional information about this unique statewide event.

The Kentucky Literacy Celebration is a result of collaboration among several literacy/education institutions and Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear. The intent of the event is to highlight literacy in Kentucky, celebrate literacy accomplishments and focus on the challenges we still face as a state.

KDE Revised Consolidated Compliance Plan for Non-Discrimination available

Please be advised that the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has revised its Consolidated Compliance Plan for Non-Discrimination.

The revised plan has been posted on the Legal and Legislative Services [page](#) on KDE's website and includes a Discrimination Complaint Form that can be filled out by anyone alleging discrimination against KDE staff and/or KDE program areas.

Free access to 'USA Today' for the rest of the school year

USA Today's Education Department is offering free access to the USA Today daily electronic edition for classrooms until the end of the school year.

Share this information with your child's teacher so he or she may receive access. Have teachers follow this link to sign up:

<http://usatodayeducation.com/k12/usa-today-education-grant-request>.

JA among KDE best practices; inspires college- and career-readiness

[Junior Achievement](#) (JA) of Kentuckiana inspires and prepares young people to succeed in a global economy, providing financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship education experiences to students who fully correlate with the requisite standards of learning in both Kentucky and Indiana.

The JA lessons are taught by local community adults, including business people, parents and university students.

JA recruits volunteers throughout the Kentuckiana region to educate children to help support Kentucky's college- and career-readiness goals for all students.

Achievement programs, like Junior Achievement, are included on the Kentucky Department of Education's Best Practices Web page.

For more information about Junior Achievement and how to get involved, contact [Lynn Hudgins](#) at (859) 219-2423.



'Kentucky County Profiles 2014-15' available

The Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS) has released the *Kentucky County Profiles 2014-15*. The report is a comprehensive collection of the most current economic, social, education and employment data available about each of Kentucky's 120 counties, as well as breakouts of each of the state's area development districts, workforce investment areas, Appalachian and non-Appalachian regions.

KCEWS compiled and produced the report from statistics in the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System and a variety of federal, state and independent data sources in order to help state and local policymakers and others have easy access to critical information about their regions.

The report includes a breakdown of regional demographics, educational attainment, college readiness, employment by sector, education pipeline, college enrollment, college financial aid information and more.

One of the most significant changes since the last county profile report was released in 2012 is the addition of comparison information between Kentucky's Appalachian and non-Appalachian regions.

Visit the KCEWS website at www.kcews.ky.gov to get a copy of the full report. For questions about the report, contact [Kate Akers](#) at (502) 564-9132.

Online classroom volunteer calendars and parent scheduling

Parent involvement is very important to the educational success of a child. That's something you know.

But another way to help with this aside from working with your child at home is to work with your child's teacher in his or her classroom.

Volunteering in schools is a win for everyone involved: teachers, parents and students.

Whether you are making photocopies for a teacher, organizing shelves, helping students with a goal-setting activity or donating classroom supplies, there is always a way for parents to make a difference.

So talk to your child's teacher today and ask how you can help.

Additionally, for parents who are interested in helping a school create a community of parent volunteers, there are websites like [Volunteer Spot](#) to help make volunteering easier and more inviting to parents.

A school may register on Volunteer Spot for a volunteer signup link. From there, teachers can add items or services they need for their classroom to help it function better.

If you think something like an online volunteering service would be beneficial in your child's school, ask an administrator to look into online volunteer signups for the remainder of the school year.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and since 1987, parents have been called upon to honor the achievements of women, both past and present.

To help celebrate this month, the U.S. Department of Education recommends that parents:

- Recognize and celebrate inspiring women in your community.
- Read quotes from notable women of the past.
- Acknowledge the accomplishments of women within your family.
- Encourage your daughters to be all they can be.